

CHICAGO – U.S. Representatives Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) and Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) today joined with U.S. House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard to announce the completion of a carbon dioxide credit auction that will offset greenhouse gas emissions created by U.S. House of Representatives. The auction, conducted by the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), is part of the “Green the Capitol” initiative, an effort to dramatically reduce the environmental footprint of the U.S. House of Representatives.

“The House of Representatives emits 91,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually – the equivalent of annual emissions from over 17,000 cars,” Congressman Kirk said. “This auction will help the House to support projects to remove carbon from the atmosphere. It will set an example to others and help Congress reach our goal of becoming carbon neutral by the end of next year. I applaud Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard’s efforts to improve energy efficiency and develop renewable energies in the Capitol. In Chicago, we know the exchange business. This auction through the CCX represents the best, most transparent way to match buyers and sellers of credits with full accountability to outside auditing firms.”

30,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide offsets were purchased through the CCX auction with an average price of \$2.97 per ton for a total of \$89,500. 21 projects will provide the U.S. House of Representatives with the carbon offsets. The projects fall under the following six categories: (1) agricultural methane collection and combustion at livestock operations, (2) landfill methane capture and combustion, (3) coal mine methane emission collection/destruction, (4) renewable energy production, (5) reforestation, and (6) carbon emission soil sequestration activities.

Congressman Kirk offered the amendment to the 2008 Legislative Branch appropriations bill which requested that the CAO purchase Carbon Financial Instruments from American projects through the Chicago Climate Exchange to offset carbon produced by House operations in conjunction with renewable energy and efficiency improvements. The appropriations bill passed the House by a vote of 216 to 176 in June.

CCX operates the world’s first and North America’s only active, voluntary, legally-binding, integrated trading system to match carbon emitter with projects to reduce greenhouse gasses. The auction allows the Green the Capitol initiative to take advantage of innovative, market-based solutions to climate change, designed, created and implemented in the United States.

CCX began trading in 2003, and now has over 360 members throughout the United States and the world. See <http://www.chicagoclimateexchange.com/> for a complete list of members.